

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An image capture device for interactive use with a handheld device including an expansion slot, the image capture device comprising:
 - 5 an optical portion, including,
 - a image capture portion including a digital image sensor, and
 - a fixed portion said image capture portion being attached to said fixed portion,
 - an indicator, a portion of which is fixed between said image capture portion and at least a portion of said fixed portion, said external light indicator including a generally disc shaped light pipe aligned with a light source, and
 - 10 a processor interface card sized to fit the expansion slot including a base at a first end and a connector at a second end, opposite said first end, said fixed portion being fixed to said base, said processor interface card additionally including a processor for processing an image received from said digital image sensor, said processor additionally controlling the state of said light source.
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- 20 2. The image capture device of claim 1, wherein said generally disc shaped light pipe additionally includes a linear light pipe affixed to at least one side of said generally disc shaped light pipe.
3. The image capture device of claim 1, wherein said light source includes
25 an LED.
4. The image capture device of claim 3, wherein said LED is a colored LED.

5. The image capture device of claim 3, wherein said generally disc shaped light pipe includes an irregularly shaped inner circumference which provides an increased number of reflective surfaces inside said light pipe.

5 6. A method of capturing and displaying an image using a handheld appliance including a display and an expansion slot, comprising the steps of:
providing an image capture device, including an indicator comprising a generally disc shaped light pipe and a light source,
inserting said image capture device processor interface card into the expansion slot;
10 framing an image to be captured;
actuating said physical trigger button to capture the image;
storing said captured image; and
displaying the captured image on the display of the handheld appliance.

15 7. The method of claim 6, wherein at least said image capture portion is rotatable, and further including the step of rotating said lens to point said lens in a desired direction.

20 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said image capture device additionally includes an indicator comprising a generally disc shaped light pipe and a light source.

9. The method of claim 8, including the step of lighting said indicator to indicate said image capture device is ready prior to actuation of said physical trigger button.